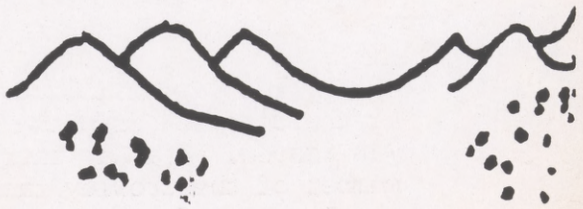
MINERAL KING DISTRICT ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER
December 1992

Dear Members:

Hope everyone had a good summer and was able to get up to Mineral King. The drought is still with us and the mountains and trees are showing the tragic effects of the lack of regular rainfall and the crucial snowpack. We can only hope that this winter will be better than the last six!

Enclosed with this newsletter are the minutes of our annual meeting. Please review the notes, there were a number of important things discussed.

NEW LOCK COMBINATION The lock combination to the gate below Atwell Mill will be changed this season. In the interest of maintaining the security of the combination for more than one year, you will need to call one of the following people listed if you plan to go up after the gate is closed. To get the new combination, please call: Jim Barton (209) 561-4205, Les Reynolds (209) 432-4175, Jean Koch (213) 664-6902, Mike Botkin (209) 597-2514, Ora Kay Petersen (209) 734-6150, or Bill Martin (209) 625-3401.

WINTER SECURITY As it stands now there will be a regular winter security patrol in the Mineral King area this winter. Roger informed me that he had initiated the hiring process and that Martin Avena?, from the Lookout Point entrance station would be performing the security patrols.

CONTROLLED FIRE The proposed controlled fire below Atwell Mill did not take place as planned. After considerable time and effort was put into the project, a possibly significant archaeological site was discovered in the proposed burn area, so the plans are on an indefinite hold.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS Please note the telephone numbers listed in the minutes of the August meeting. If you have a private phone in your cabin please post the correct numbers to call next to the phone in the event of an emergency.

CABIN OWNER SURVEY In early November, a opinion survey was mailed out to the cabin owner/permittee of record for each cabin in Mineral King and Cabin Cove. The survey is concerned with the question of whether or not there is a majority interest in approaching Congress to amend current legislation that mandates the eventual termination of all permits in the area. Approximately one half of the survey sheets have been returned and I would hope that the rest will be coming in soon. It is important that everyone's opinion be heard. Please mail them in if you haven't already.

Have a great Holiday season!

Les Reynolds

Les Reynolds, President
MINERAL KING DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

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MINERAL KING DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes
August 1, 1992

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:10 AM and was held at the Barton cabin, #13 in West Mineral King.

2. A motion was made to accept the minutes as mailed from the previous annual meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

3. WINTER SECURITY Due to staffing problems there were no regular winter security patrols in the area until April of this year. Roger was able to quickly check on things while passing through on snow survey trips. Since there was a carryover of funds earmarked for security, a motion was made, seconded and approved to give the board the authority to make any necessary changes in the dues/security charges for the 1993-4 season.

There were a number of incidents last winter where the lock on the gate below Atwell Mill was left unlocked. The lock problem was discussed and the recommendation was made to change the combination for the upcoming season. It was not decided what procedure would be used to notify cabin families of the new combination.

4. REFUSE REMOVAL There are the same ongoing problems with the dumpsters near the Cold Springs bridge. Hot ashes and large bulky objects are being put in the containers. If the dumpsters are full, (emptied on Thursdays) take trash down the mountain instead of leaving it beside the containers.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT Stuart Hendricks gave the financial report. As of July 31, there was $2,658.08 in the checking account, $1,772.98 in the savings account and $240 in undeposited dues checks, for a grand total of $4,671.06. Since there was no payout for winter security last season, there is currently more money in the checking account than usual.

6. OFFICERS/BOARD The slate of officers for the next year are: Les Reynolds-President, Jim Ingram-Vice-President, Stuart & Terri Hendricks-Secretary/Treasurer, Jim Barton-Park Liason. Board members are: Bill Martin, Sharon Devol, Mike & Cassie Huffman, Jean Koch, Earl & Jana Meyer, and Stony Savage.

7. NPS Roger Blain introduced his staff and also introduced to the Association members his new boss, Tom Schaal. Linda Wallace is Roger's assistant in the Mineral King area now. Roger explained the problems that he encountered with keeping the gate locked below Atwell Mill last season. After the gate is locked, there is no regular coverage by Park personnel in the area, and Roger is very concerned with the safety of unauthorized visitors in the area. We all must be aware of the problems associated with off season use of the area and make certain that unauthorized people are not allowed in or given the lock combination.

Roger requested that cabin families make sure that friends, relatives and guests provide the ranger at the Lookout Point entrance station with the cabin number, location,(East or West MK) and the owner's name when coming into the Park. Family members are not subject to entrance fees. Friends and guests may be required to pay the entrance fee if they are planning to use the Park's facilities.

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Jim Casey, Fire Protection Area Foreman, spoke briefly about fire safety in the area. He thanked the cabin families for their cooperation in cleaning up around the cabins. Jim mentioned that there would be a controlled burn below Atwell Mill after Labor Day that would tie in to last year's burn in the same area. Roger asked that each cabin family draw up a floor plan of their cabin that emergency crews could use to make sure that all occupants were evacuated from the structure in the event of a fire. The subject of propane system safety was discussed. A suggestion was made to keep the propane tank main valve locked when cabins are not being used or to have a secondary shutoff valve hidden near the cabin to prevent unauthorized use. Another safety point was discussed and that was for residents of West Mineral King to leave their water turned on all season and have hoses with spray nozzles ready for emergency use. If there is a concern about water leaks inside a vacant cabin, a secondary shutoff valve could be installed to isolate internal water lines.

In the event of an emergency in the Mineral King area, and you are calling from a private cabin phone, you must dial 565-3195 or 565-3196 to reach Park Service dispatch. If you need emergency assistance and make a call from one of the public phones in the area, then dialing 911 will get to Park dispatch. If the public phone is used at the Silver City Store for an emergency call, 911 will reach Tulare County Emergency Services and not the Park Service.

Alia Selke, NPS Wildlife Biologist, gave the members an update on wildlife in the Mineral King area. There have been no major problems with bears recently. Please store food wisely inside cabins, and do not put out food for any animals. The marmot community is still alive and well. Fortunately after mid-July problems with marmots seem to decrease. Cougars are in our area now so please be aware. Do not let children run ahead of you on the trail. If you confront a cougar, stand tall, do not crouch down or turn away to run. Gather up children or pets and back away slowly. Cougars have been sighted from Oak Grove to the high country! They have also been sighted in the cabin areas and crossing the bridge into Cold Springs campground. Please be carefull!

8. MKPS Ora Kay Petersen gave a status report on the efforts of the PRESERVATION SOCIETY. There was a good turnout for the SOCIETY'S annual Picnic in the Park and there were sweatshirts and t-shirts available for sale after the meeting. Forms for cabin info/histories were to be distributed for verification and return. Ora Kay and John Elliott attended a conference of the MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION in Boise, Idaho and John gave a presentation on Mineral King. It was a great opportunity to get Mineral King some national recognition. The Pinkham cabin in East Mineral King has been quitclaimed to the MKPS and they are negotiating with the NPS for a permit to maintain the structure. The question of county tax responsibility was raised and Ora Kay was unsure of the answer at the time but said the MKPS would pay the Park for the permit, if one was issued. Ora Kay introduced Shery Hack, an architectural historian and member of the Crowley family from East MK. Shery has recently moved to the Bay Area from the Midwest and plans to get involved with the SOCIETY's efforts.

9. NEW BUSINESS There was no new business to discuss.

10. ADJOURNEMENT The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.

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